

One Hundred Fifth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday,
the twenty-seventh day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-eight*

Concurrent Resolution

Whereas a disturbing number of law-abiding citizens believe, they are prisoners in their own homes because of increasing violence in our society;

Whereas law-abiding citizens have the right to be fearful knowing that violent offenders only serve on average 48 percent of the sentence they received;

Whereas more, than two-thirds of the persons under correctional supervision are currently on parole and not incarcerated;

Whereas one in three offenders admitted to State prisons were on probation or parole violators;

Whereas the Federal Government eliminated parole in 1984 and prisoners convicted of Federal crimes now serve at least 85 percent of their sentences;

Whereas under current Federal law, States are eligible for prison construction funds if they keep felons in prison for at least 85 percent of their sentence;

Whereas in 1996, at least 25 States, among them Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and Washington, have laws that meet the 85 percent of sentence served requirements set forth in the 1994 crime bill; and

Whereas the National Association of Police Organizations, the International Chiefs of Police, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Chiefs of Police, the National District Attorney's Association, and the Safe Streets Coalition support the concept of an 85 percent minimum length of service for violent criminals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) Congress commends Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and Washington for their existing efforts with respect to prison time served by criminal offenders;

(2) Congress encourages all remaining States to adopt as quickly as possible legislation to increase the time served by violent felons; and

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(3) with respect to Federal crimes, Congress reemphasizes its support for the requirement that individuals who commit violent crimes should serve at least 85 percent of their sentence.

Attest:

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Attest:

Secretary of the Senate.